

Overview of the Montana Water Information System

Prepared for the Water Policy Interim Committee, March 15, 2022



Natural Resource Information System

90-15-301.... a comprehensive program for the acquisition, storage, and retrieval of existing data relating to the natural resources of Montana.

Water Information System

90-15-305. Water information system . . . (2) The Montana water information system shall **make available and readily accessible, in a usable format, to state agencies and other interested persons, information on the state's water resources**, out-of-state water resources that affect the state, existing and potential uses, and the existing and potential demand.

Primary Goals of the Montana Water Information System

1. **Coordinate with water data providers** to make high quality water information available to all Montanans as efficiently and affordably as possible.
2. **Facilitate discovery and access to water information** by managing and updating the Montana Water Information System website as a discovery hub for Montanans to find information about water in the state.
3. **Update and maintain the Montana Hydrography Dataset** for use by state, local, and private interests as the best available statewide digital representation of Montana's streams, rivers, and waterbodies.

Featured Products:

- Statewide Hydrography Dataset
- Elevation and Lidar Data
- GIS data, web services, and applications
- Cadastral Application
- Digital Atlas
- Snowpack and Water Supply Maps in coord. with NRCS
- Yellowstone River Clearinghouse
- Drought Monitoring in coord. with DNRC
- Statewide Aerial Imagery
- Digital Gallery of Water Maps
- Watershed Boundary Dataset
- . . . and more

<https://nrismt.gov/water>

Troy Blandford

Montana State Library | Water Information System Manager

406.444.7930 | tblandford@mt.gov



D
A
T
A

D
I
S
C
O
V
E
R
Y



DATA LIST

Search the MSL catalog of metadata records to discover available GIS datasets

msl.mt.gov/GIS/DataList



DATA BUNDLER

Clip GIS datasets from the MSL geographic database to an extent of your choice

msl.mt.gov/GIS/Bundler



MONTANA FIELD GUIDES

Identification, habitat, ecology, reproduction, range, and distribution of Montana's plants and animals

fieldguide.mt.gov



MSL-USDA NRCS Natural Resource Data Partnership

Products developed to support natural resource inventories, ecological site mapping, conservation planning, and other environmental assessments. Includes the Ecological Site Reviewer application, interpretive soils maps, National Resources Inventory story map, and HUC Environment geodatabases.

msl.mt.gov/NRCS



WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM

The start point for finding water resources information in Montana including Drought and Water Supply

nris.mt.gov/water



CHANNEL MIGRATION ZONES

Clearinghouse of CMZ mapping projects, data, maps, and reports

nris.mt.gov/ChannelMigration



YELLOWSTONE RIVER CLEARINGHOUSE

Access Yellowstone River data and publications including maps, GIS data, and reports

nris.mt.gov/YellowstoneRiver

F
E
A
T
U
R
E
D

A
P
P
S



MONTANA DIGITAL ATLAS

Find geographic locations in Montana and explore geographic databases, aerial photos, and topo maps

msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas



MONTANA CADASTRAL APPLICATION

Identify owners of land parcels and explore the State's property assessment database

gis.mt.gov



ECOLOGICAL SITE REVIEWER

Explore biophysical data such as elevation, slopes, aspect, soils, frost-free days, and classified vegetation

msl.mt.gov/NRCS/SiteReviewer



Montana Lidar Inventory

View, download, and request lidar data. Submit priority areas of interest for future lidar acquisitions.

msl.mt.gov/gis/lidarinventory

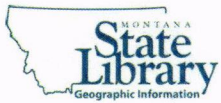


NATURAL HERITAGE MAPVIEWER

Explore species, ecological, and land management data

mtnhp.org/mapviewer/

Find much more at:
msl.mt.gov

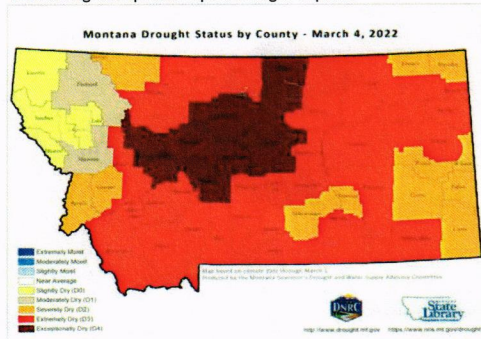


Water Information System

Featured Data, Maps, and Apps

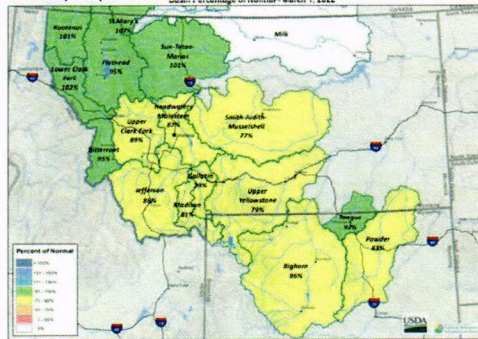
Drought

View drought maps and report drought impacts



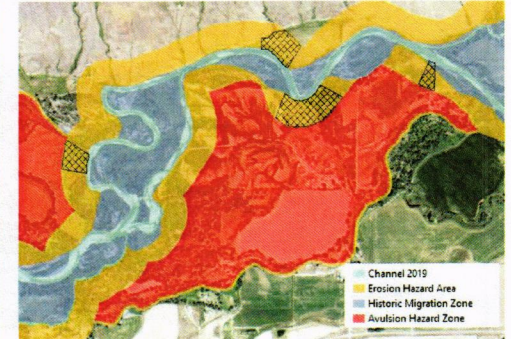
Snow and Water Supply

Monthly maps of snow and water supply conditions



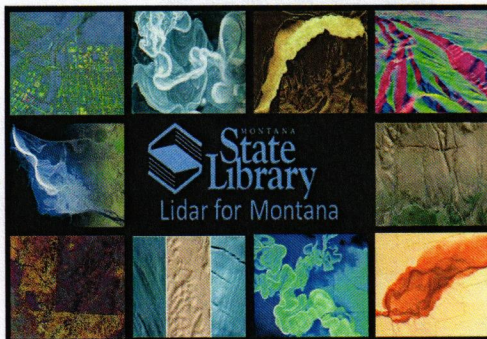
Channel Migration Zone Data and Maps

Understand the dynamic nature of river lateral migration



Montana Lidar Inventory

View, download, and request lidar data



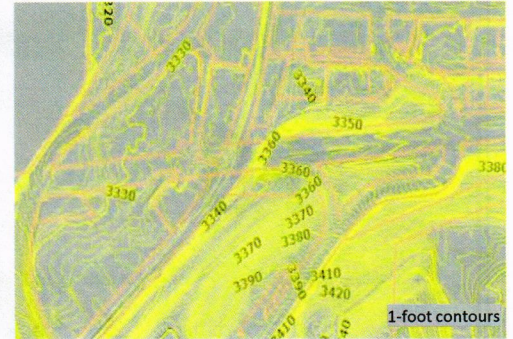
Relative Elevation Models (coming soon)

Use lidar data to explore river and stream channels



Lidar for LOMA app (coming soon)

Request a determination from FEMA about property flood-risk

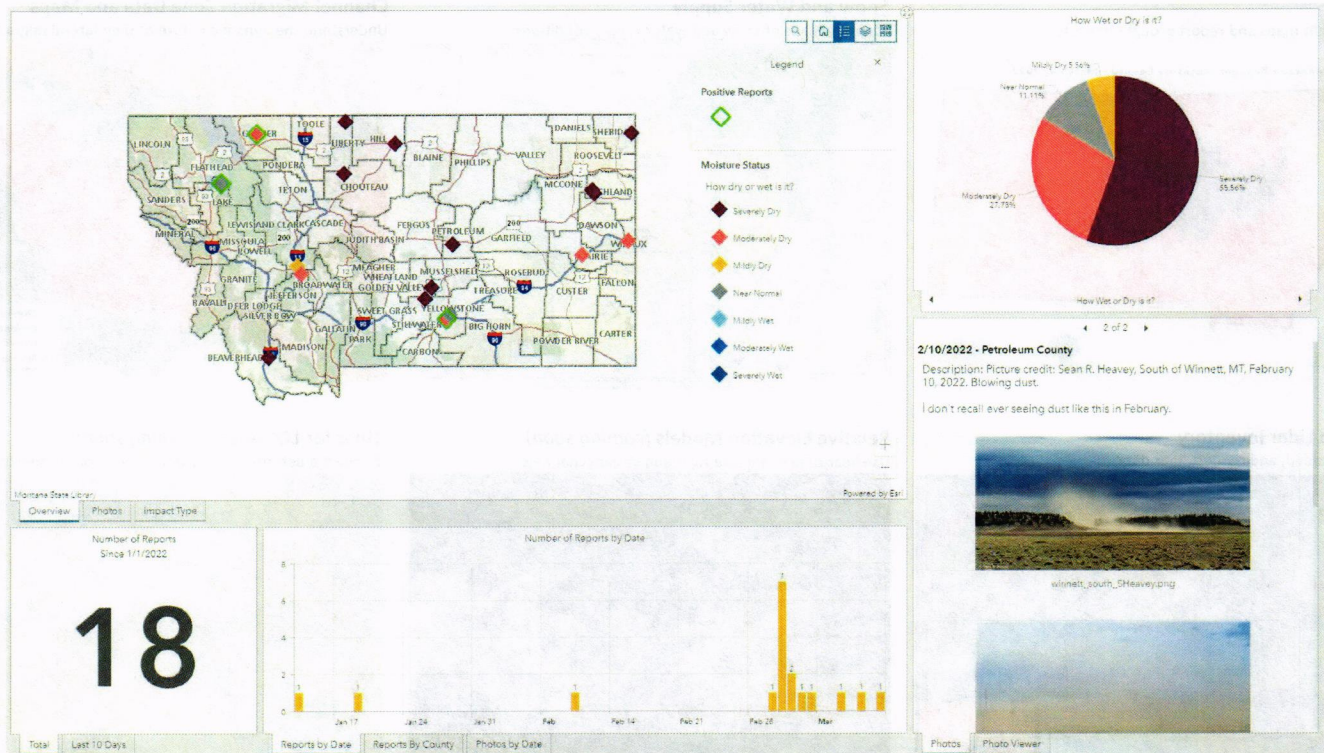


<https://nris.mt.gov/water>

Montana State Library – Geographic Information
406.444.5354 | geoinfo@mt.gov

Montana Drought Impact Reporter

A live, ongoing survey for collecting information about moisture conditions across the state.



<https://nris.mt.gov/drought>

Montana State Library – Geographic Information
406.444.5354 | geoinfo@mt.gov

Montana Lidar Inventory

Updated March 2022

